United Nations A/CONF.192/PC/22

General Assembly

Distr.: General
4 January 2001

Original: English

Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects
Second session
8-19 January 2001

Note verbale dated 22 December 2000 from the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the United Nations Secretariat

The Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the United Nations and has the honour to request that the attached working paper of Japan be circulated as an official document of the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (see annex).

01-20193 (E) 040101

Annex

Working paper submitted by Japan outlining its basic position on the action plan for the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

Japan strongly hopes that the UN Conference next year will serve as a decisive turning point for the international community in its fight against the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects. For this purpose, efforts will have to be made at the Conference to mobilize the political will of all participating states to come up with a meaningful final document which should include an action plan. This working paper contains Japan's basic views as to the important components and a broad outline of the possible measures to be included in the action plan. Japan will provide more detailed views on the components of the action plan at a later date.

1. Basic norms or guidelines

(1) One of the important components of such an action plan should be a set of norms or guidelines for combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects. These should include, for example:

(1) Pledges by states to place strict controls on the manufacture of such weapons and on export/import procedures
(2) Strict observance of embargoes imposed by UN Security Council resolutions
(3) Tight restrictions on the influx of such weapons to regions in conflict
(4) Storage, under guard, of excess weapons to avoid theft and diversion, with their eventual destruction as far as practicable.
(5) Promotion of global and regional cooperation among police, customs and border-control authorities

(2) Because of its policy of prohibiting the export of weapons, Japan is in the unique position of being able to support almost any global or regional measure to control the export of such weapons. On the other hand, the right of all states to acquire such weapons for legitimate defense and security purposes must be duly respected. Therefore, in formulating the above norms or guidelines, a careful balance will have to be worked out. Japan believes that the recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's reports A/52/298 and A/54/258 should serve as a useful basis for this purpose inasmuch as they were adopted by consensus among governmental experts appointed on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, and were subsequently endorsed by General Assembly resolutions.

2. Transparency

Another important component of the action plan will be transparency measures related to the manufacture, trade, possession, disposal and so forth of such weapons. In the future, consideration might be given to marking weapons as a way of combating and discouraging illicit

trade. Some useful recommendations in this regard are already contained in the Secretary-General's report A/54/258.

3. Cooperation and assistance

(1) The third component of the action plan should contain practical measures to be taken by the United Nations, international and regional organizations, and states in a position to do so to assist those states and regions seriously affected by the excessive and destabilizing accumulation and transfer of such weapons in their efforts to disarm, demobilize and re-integrate former combatants (DDR). Such measures should include the collection and destruction of weapons. A region-specific and integrated approach combining disarmament and development efforts will be required. Ongoing efforts in various regions will have to be strengthened considerably, and ways will have to be worked out to ensure their sustainability over extended periods of time. Coordination of all such activities must be improved.

(2) In recent years, Japan has been stepping up its efforts in this field by supporting various related activities of the United Nations and other international and regional organizations; it is also engaged in bilateral development assistance activities in affected regions. Japan is willing to further intensify such efforts in cooperation with the United Nations, international regional organizations and other interested states.

4. Follow-up mechanism

As to the follow-up mechanism of the Conference, a periodic review will be essential in view of the nature of the problems related to the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons. In this regard, Member States, as well as international and regional organizations are requested to provide the United Nations with information on their respective activities on a regular basis so as to make periodic reviews more effective.

5. Others

On the question of the participation of NGOs, Japan believes that they should be permitted to observe all the sessions of the Preparatory Committee and the Conference itself, and to present their views during a session or sessions set aside for them. Their cooperation is absolutely necessary in raising awareness as well as in combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.

United Nations A/CONF.192/PC/23

General Assembly

Distr.: General
10 January 2001
English
Original: French

Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects
Second session
8-19 January 2001

Letter dated 8 January 2001 from the Permanent Representatives of Mali and Togo to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

We have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the Bamako Declaration on an African Common Position on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (see annex) issued at the Ministerial Conference held in Bamako on 30 November and 1 December 2000.

We should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Conference.

(*Signed*) Moctar **Ouane**
Permanent Representative of Mali

(*Signed*) Roland Y. **Kpotsra**
Permanent Representative of Togo
Representative of the current Chairman
of the Organization of African Unity

01-20811 (E) 110101 110101

Annex to the letter dated 8 January 2001 from the Permanent Representatives of Mali and Togo to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

[Original: English and French]

Bamako Declaration on an African Common Position on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons

I. WE, THE MINISTERS of the Member States of the Organization of African Unity, met in Bamako, Mali, from 30 November to 1 December 2000, to develop an African Common Position on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons in preparation for the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, scheduled to take place in New York, from 9 to 20 July, 2001, in accordance with the relevant United Nations General Assembly Resolutions. Our meeting was held in pursuance of:

The Decision AHG/Dec. 137 (LXX), adopted by the 35th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government held in Algiers, Algeria, from 12 to 14 July 1999, which called for an African approach on the problems posed by the illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons, and for the convening of a Ministerial preparatory conference on this matter prior to the holding of the United Nations Conference; and the decisions adopted on this matter by the Council of Ministers, at its 68th Ordinary Session held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, from 1 to 6 June 1998 (CM/Dec. 432 (LXVIII), the 71st Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 6 to 10 March 2000 (CM/Dec.501 (LXXI), and the 72nd Ordinary Session held in Lome, Togo, from 6 to 8 July 2000 (CM/Dec.527 (LXXII);

II. WE HAVE CONSIDERED the reports of the Secretary-General on the preparation for the Ministerial Conference on the illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons, as well as the report of the first continental meeting of African Experts and the International Consultation on the illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 17 to 19 May 2000, and from 22 to 23 June 2000, respectively.

III. In reviewing the situation of the illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons, WE RECOGNIZE the progress

made at national and regional levels in developing action programmes for the reduction, prevention and management of small arms and light weapons proliferation. In this regard, we welcome in particular, the ECOWAS Moratorium of 31 October 1998, its accompanying Code of Conduct of 1999 and its Plan of Action under the Programme for Coordination and Assistance for Security and Development (PCASED); the Nairobi Declaration adopted by the Ministers of the countries of the Great Lakes and the Horn of Africa regions on 15 March 2000, and its Coordinated Agenda for Action and Implementation Plan; the progress towards the signature of a SADC Declaration and Protocol on Firearms and Ammunition and its Implementation Programme as discussed in August 2000; the Djibouti Declaration of the countries of the Horn of Africa and the Gulf of Aden on antipersonnel landmines, of 18 November 2000; as well as the efforts made by ECCAS Member States, within the framework of the UN Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa on the proliferation and illicit circulation of small arms and light weapons in Central Africa.

IV. WE REAFFIRM our respect for international law and principles as contained in the Charter of the United Nations, in particular, the respect for national sovereignty, non-interference in the internal affairs of Member States, the right to individual and collective self-defense, as stated in Article 51 of the UN Charter, the right of self determination of peoples and the right of Member States to develop their own defense systems to ensure national security.

V. WE HAVE DELIBERATED extensively on the various aspects of the problem of the illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons, and HAVE AGREED on the following African Common Position on the illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons:

1. WE EXPRESS OUR GRAVE CONCERN that the problem of the illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons continues to have devastating consequences for stability and development in Africa. We recognize that this problem:

i) sustains conflicts, exacerbates violence, contributes to the displacement of innocent populations and threatens international

humanitarian law, as well as fuels crime and encourages terrorism;

ii) promotes a culture of violence and destabilizes societies by creating a propitious environment for criminal and contraband activities, in particular, the looting of precious minerals and the illicit trafficking in and abuse of, narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and endangered species;

iii) has adverse effects on security and development, especially on women, refugees and other vulnerable groups, as well as on infrastructure and property;

iv) also has devastating consequences on children, a number of whom are victims of armed conflict, while others are forced to become child soldiers;

v) undermines good governance, peace efforts and negotiations, jeopardizes the respect for fundamental human rights, and hinders economic development;

vi) relates to the combating and the eradication of the illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons, and control of their proliferation;

vii) is both one of supply and demand, transcends borders and calls for cooperation at all levels: local, national, regional, continental and international.

2. WE THEREFORE AGREE that, in order to promote peace, security, stability and sustainable development on the continent, it is vital to address the problem of the illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons in a comprehensive, integrated, sustainable and efficient manner through:

i) ensuring that the behaviour and conduct of Member States and suppliers are not only transparent but also go beyond narrow national interests;

ii) the promotion of measures aimed at restoring peace, security and confidence among and between Member States with a view to reducing the resort to arms;

iii) the promotion of structures and processes to strengthen democracy, the observance of human rights, the rule of law and good governance, as well as economic recovery and growth;

iv) the promotion of conflict prevention measures and the pursuit of negotiated solutions to conflicts;

v) the promotion of comprehensive solutions to the problem of the illicit proliferation circulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons that:

- include both control and reduction, as well as supply and demand aspects;
- are based on the coordination and harmonization of the efforts of Member States at regional, continental and international levels;
- involve civil society in support of the central role of governments, in this regard.

vi) the enhancement of the capacity of Member States to identify, seize and destroy illicit weapons and to put in place measures to control the circulation, possession, transfer and use of small arms and light weapons;

vii) the promotion of a culture of peace by encouraging education and public awareness programmes on the problem of the illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons, involving all sectors of society;

viii) the institutionalization of national and regional programmes for action aimed at preventing, controlling and eradicating the illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons in Africa; and

ix) the respect for international humanitarian law.

3. WE RECOMMEND that Member States should:

A. At the National Level

i) put in place, where they do not exist, national coordination Agencies or bodies and the appropriate institutional infrastructure responsible for policy guidance, research and monitoring on all aspects of small arms and light weapons proliferation, control, circulation, trafficking and reduction;

ii) enhance the capacity of national law enforcement and security Agencies and officials to deal with all aspects of the arms problem, including appropriate training on investigative procedures, border control and specialized actions, and upgrading of equipment and resources;

iii) adopt, as soon as possible, where they do not exist, the necessary legislative and other measures to establish as a criminal offence under national law, the illicit manufacturing of, trafficking in, and illegal possession and use of small arms and light weapons, ammunition and other related materials;

iv) develop and implement, where they do not exist, national programmes for:

- the responsible management of licit arms;

- the voluntary surrender of illicit small arms and light weapons;

- the identification and the destruction by competent national authorities and where necessary, of surplus, obsolete and seized stocks in possession of the state, with, as appropriate, international financial and technical support;

- the reintegration of demobilized youth and those who possess small arms and light weapons illegally.

v) develop and implement public awareness programmes on the problem of the proliferation and the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons;

vi) encourage the adoption of appropriate national legislation or regulations to prevent the breaching of international arms embargoes, as decided by the United Nations Security Council;

vii) take appropriate measures to control arms transfers by manufacturers, suppliers, traders, brokers, as well as shipping and transit agents, in a transparent fashion;

viii) encourage, where appropriate, the active involvement of civil society in the formulation and implementation of a national action plan to deal with the problem;

ix) enter into binding bilateral arrangements, on a voluntary basis with neighbouring countries, so as to put in place an effective common system of control, including the recording, licensing and collection of small arms and light weapons, within common frontier zones.

B. At the Regional Level

i) Put in place, where they do not exist, mechanisms to coordinate and harmonize efforts to address the illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons;

ii) Encourage the codification and harmonization of legislation governing the manufacture, trading, brokering, possession and use of small arms and ammunition. Common standards could include, but not be limited to, marking, record-keeping and controls governing imports, exports and the licit trade;

iii) Strengthen regional and continental cooperation among police, customs and border control services to address the illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons. These efforts should include, but not be limited to, training, the exchange of information to support common action

to contain and reduce illicit small arms and light weapons trafficking across borders, and the conclusion of the necessary Agreements in this regard;

iv) Ensure that the manufacturers and suppliers of illicit small arms and light weapons, who violate global or continental regulations on the issue, shall be sanctioned. Known brokers and States which act as suppliers of illicitly acquired arms and weapons to combatants in Member States, should equally be sanctioned by the international community.

4. WE STRONGLY APPEAL to the wider international community and, particularly, to arms supplier countries, to:

i) Accept that trade in small arms should be limited to governments and authorized registered licensed traders;

ii) Actively engage, support and fund the efforts of OAU Member States in addressing the problem of the illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons in the continent;

iii) Seriously consider ways to discourage and eliminate the practice of dumping excess weapons in African countries and in violation of arms embargoes;

iv) Enact appropriate legislation and regulations to control arms transfers by manufacturers, suppliers, traders, brokers, shipping and transit agents;

v) Enact stringent laws, regulations and administrative procedures to ensure the effective control over the transfer of small arms and light weapons, including mechanisms with a view to facilitating the identification of illicit arms transfers; and

vi) Take full advantage of the forthcoming United Nations Conference to make these commitments known.

5. WE CALL for international partnership to curb the illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons in Africa. In this regard,

i) WE APPEAL to international institutions to support initiatives and programmes aimed at eradicating the illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons. In this regard, WE REITERATE the call as contained in the relevant United Nations General Assembly Resolutions for financial and other appropriate support for the implementation of these programmes;

ii) WE APPEAL to Governments, all sectors of civil society and donor Agencies for the financial and technical support to national programmes for the reintegration of demobilized youths and those in illegal possession of small arms;

iii) WE CALL FOR close cooperation between the OAU, regional economic communities, the United Nations Agencies, other international organizations, in close association with civil society Organizations, in addressing the illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons;

iv) WE URGE OAU Member States, the United Nations, Regional Organizations, Research Centers, the civil society and the international community as a whole, to develop and fund action-oriented research aimed at facilitating greater awareness and better understanding on the nature and scope of the problem, providing, whenever possible, a basis for continued advocacy and action on prevention measures, and evaluating the impact of these measures;

v) WE REQUEST that competent international Organizations like INTERPOL, the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, play a more important role in the fight against the illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons;

vi) WE ENCOURAGE all the Member States of the United Nations, to accede to international legal instruments on terrorism and international organized crime.

6. WE CALL for a realistic and implementable programme of action during the 2001 United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, which will take place in New York, from 9-20 July 2001 and WE SUPPORT the efforts by the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee in this regard.

7. WE UNDERTAKE to promote and defend this African common position on the illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons during the 2001 UN Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its aspects.

8. WE REQUEST the Secretary-General to follow up on the implementation of the present Declaration and to present regular progress reports to the Council of Ministers.

United Nations A/CONF.192/PC/24

General Assembly

Distr.: General
10 January 2001

Original: English

Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects
Second session
8-19 January 2001

Letter dated 9 January 2001 from the Chairman of the Pacific Island Forum group of countries in New York for January 2001 addressed to Jayantha Dhanapala, Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, transmitting a paper entitled "Small Arms and Light Weapons: The Interests and Involvement of Pacific Island Forum Countries"

On behalf of the countries of the Pacific Island Forum represented in New York, I have the honour to transmit herewith a paper entitled "Small Arms and Light Weapons: The Interests and Involvement of Pacific Island Forum Countries" (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the paper circulated as a document of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

(*Signed*) Jeremiah **Manele**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Chairman of the Pacific Island Forum group
of countries in New York for January 2001

01-20757 (E) 100101

Annex

Small Arms and Light Weapons: The Interests and Involvement of Pacific Island Forum Countries

The countries of the Pacific Island Forum strongly support international efforts to combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. As a region, the South Pacific has not been immune from the devastating humanitarian and socio-economic impact of conflicts fuelled by the illicit use, trade and accumulation of small arms and light weapons. And unlike some parts of the world, in the South Pacific the problem is not measured by the flow of tens of thousands of high-powered military-style weapons. Just a handful of very basic weapons can destabilize small communities with limited resources, and contribute to political and social unrest.

The countries of the Pacific Island Forum are therefore committed to making a constructive contribution to the 2001 United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. We look to the 2001 United Nations Conference to produce realistic outcomes that address the issue of small arms and light weapons in a practical way, by effectively regulating the use, transfer and accumulation of small arms, which harm civilians and destabilize communities.

The countries of the Pacific Island Forum are already acting to meet the problems posed by small arms and light weapons. In June 1996, at a South Pacific Forum Regional Security Committee meeting, Papua New Guinea proposed the development of a common regional approach to weapons control. This proposal was enthusiastically received, and since then steady progress has been made towards this goal.

- At the direction of the South Pacific Forum Regional Security Committee, in February 1997 the South Pacific Chiefs of Police Conference examined current laws on firearms control and licensing.
- In October 1998, the South Pacific Chiefs of Police Conference drafted the "Honiara Initiative" on a common approach to weapons control. The "Honiara Initiative" includes language on the marking of firearms, strengthening of import and export controls, licensing requirements, record-keeping and information exchange. It covers firearms, firearm parts and illicit manufacturing and trafficking.
- At the 1999 South Pacific Forum, Forum leaders, using the "Honiara Initiative" as a basis, approved the commencement of work on a draft legal framework for the implementation of common weapon control measures.
- In March 2000 the South Pacific Chiefs of Police Conference and the Oceania Customs Organization met to consider a draft framework covering non-firearm weapons as well as firearms. As a result, the "Nadi Framework" was produced, incorporating the "Honiara Initiative" and non-firearms weapon issues. The "Nadi Framework" is based on the premise that possession and use of firearms, ammunition, other related materials and prohibited weapons is a privilege conditional on the overriding need to ensure public safety and that public safety will be enhanced by imposing strict controls on the import, possession and use of firearms, ammunition, other related materials and prohibited weapons.

- At their meeting in October 2000, leaders of the Pacific Island Forum (formerly the South Pacific Forum) countries agreed to develop model legislation to facilitate implementation and enforcement of the common approach to weapon control encapsulated in the "Nadi Framework". It is expected that this model legislation will be finalized by mid-2001 at the latest.

At the October 2000 Pacific Island Forum leaders meeting, Australia offered to host a small arms workshop for Pacific Island countries. The purpose of this workshop, likely to take place in April 2001, will be to provide practical advice to legislators, law enforcement officers, customs officers and other influential practitioners involved in regulating the use and ownership of small arms and light weapons, to help them implement and enforce the model legislation. The workshop will also provide an opportunity for Pacific Island Forum countries to consolidate their approach in advance of the 2001 United Nations Conference.

United Nations A/CONF.192/PC/25

General Assembly

Distr.: General
10 January 2001

Original: English

Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects
Second session
8-19 January 2001

Working paper by Switzerland and France on establishing a tracing mechanism to prevent and reduce excessive and destabilizing accumulation and transfer of small arms and light weapons

The present working paper follows up the food-for-thought paper that France and Switzerland circulated at the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (document A/CONF.192/PC/7). It takes up and further develops ideas and suggestions that were presented in that document.

Introduction

Excessive and destabilizing accumulation and transfer of small arms and light weapons[1], as well as their unchecked spread within societies, pose a serious threat to regional and international peace and security. These weapons of concern contribute to terrible human suffering, reduce prospects for sustainable development and foster a culture of violence.

[1] For the purposes of the present working paper, small arms and light weapons are defined as weapons made or modified to military specifications for use as lethal instruments of war.

01-20962 (E) 110101

In order to understand and to come to grips with this complex problem, a number of aspects – including arms control and disarmament, development as well as humanitarian issues – need to be addressed. Since no panacea can be found for this problem, a comprehensive plan of action is called for. Measures to acquire a better knowledge of the location and circulation of weapons of concern are a key element of such a plan.

The French-Swiss initiative focuses on one specific aspect of the problem of excessive and destabilizing accumulation and transfer of small arms and light weapons– the difficulty of tracing small arms flows of concern - and suggests possible ways and means to overcome it.

The problem

Unchecked flows of small arms and light weapons contribute to the problem of excessive and destabilizing accumulation and spread of these weapons, particularly in regions of conflict and tension. So do insecurely managed holdings or significant surpluses of small arms and light weapons, which are particularly vulnerable to loss through theft, corruption or neglect. The lack of adequate institutionalized mechanisms for finding out how such weapons of concern have been lost or have reached these regions undermines and weakens efforts to tackle this problem. Unable to stop weapons falling into the wrong hands, states have great difficulty in breaking the spiral of supply and demand of small arms and of associated violence.

Aim of the French-Swiss initiative

The French-Swiss initiative aims to strengthen the ability of states to take effective action to prevent or reduce small arms and light weapons flows that contribute to excessive and destabilizing accumulation and spread of these weapons, particularly in regions of conflict and tension. This would be done by **establishing a cooperation mechanism and taking preventive measures** including marking and record keeping, so as to enable states to identify and trace lines of supply of these weapons of concern.

Key Elements of the French-Swiss initiative

A possible international agreement to enable states to identify and trace lines of supply of small arms and light weapons of concern should include the following key elements:

1) At the international level, states shall establish a tracing mechanism whereby they **commit themselves to cooperate in tracing lines of supply of small arms** that contribute to the excessive and destabilizing accumulation and spread of these weapons, particularly in regions of conflict or tension. To that effect, states shall commit themselves:

- To respond promptly and accurately to requests for information from other states to assist them in their efforts to trace lines of supply of small arms and light weapons of concern;
- To ensure an appropriate level of confidentiality relating to the information provided to them by other states in the context of specific tracing efforts;
- To respond promptly and accurately, and according to similar guidelines on confidentiality as mentioned above, to requests from the UN Secretary-General for information to assist the UN in efforts to trace lines of supply of small arms and light weapons that have been discovered in countries subject to a UN arms embargo;
- To similarly cooperate with the UN in efforts aimed at tracing, and thereby preventing and reducing, small arms and light weapons flows that contribute to the excessive and destabilizing accumulation and spread of these weapons in regions in which the UN is operating a peace mission;

2) At the national level, states shall commit themselves to **take preventive measures** to enhance their collective ability to identify and trace flows of small arms and light weapons of concern. In particular, states shall establish a national legislative and/or regulatory framework:

- To ensure that all small arms and light weapons are appropriately and uniquely marked at the stage of manufacture, and that existing unmarked or inadequately marked small arms and light weapons are either expeditiously destroyed or appropriately marked;

- To ensure that accurate record-keeping systems are established and organized and maintained in such a way as to ensure that accurate information can be promptly retrieved and collated by competent national authorities;
- To ensure that marking and registration systems are such as to allow clear identification of the countries of manufacture and of authorized import, to facilitate efforts to trace lines of supply of weapons of concern.

3) In order to support the **implementation and further development** of these cooperation and prevention measures, states shall commit themselves:

- To set up an international consultative body to advise them on technical matters related to tracing, marking and record keeping.
- To promote consultations with industry, research institutes and experts both at national and international levels in order to benefit from their expertise.

4) To ensure the broadest possible participation in and facilitate implementation of the above-mentioned measures, states shall promote **international cooperation and assistance** in training and raising technical and enforcement capacities.

United Nations A/CONF.192/PC/26

General Assembly

Distr.: General
10 January 2001

Original: English

Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects
Second session
8-19 January 2001

Letter dated 10 January 2001 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations in his capacity as Chairman of the Coordinating Bureau of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries addressed to the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

In my capacity as Chairman of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement, I wish to recall that the Non-Aligned Movement endorsed the candidature of Ambassador Camilo Reyes of Colombia as Chairman of the 2001 United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. As you are aware, the Coordinating Bureau of the Movement decided on 6 October 2000 to endorse and support the candidature of Ambassador Reyes for this important position.

I wish to request that the present letter be circulated as a document of the Preparatory Committee.

(*Signed*) Dumisani S. **Kumalo**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

01-20769 (E) 100101

United Nations A/CONF.192/PC/27

General Assembly

Distr.: General
12 January 2001

Original: English

Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects
Second session
8-19 January 2001

Working paper submitted by Japan on the working paper submitted by the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee

The Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the United Nations, and has the honour to request that the attached proposal of Japan be circulated as an official United Nations document of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects at its second session (see annex).

01-21152 (E) 120101

Annex

Japan's proposal on the working paper submitted by the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

Japan wishes to propose that the following elements be considered for inclusion in part III, "International cooperation and assistance" of the working paper by the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee (A/CONF.192/PC/L.4).

United Nations

1. With respect to the regions and subregions where conflicts come to an end and where serious problems of the proliferation of small arms have to be dealt with urgently, the United Nations should make greater efforts, within its available resources, to extend the integrated approach to security and development. In doing so, due consideration should be given to the specific situation of the post-conflict region or subregion.

2. With respect to regions and subregions where conflicts come to an end and where serious problems of the proliferation of small arms and light weapons have to be dealt with urgently, the United Nations should support, within its available resources, all appropriate post-conflict programmes related to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, such as those on the disposal and destruction of weapons.

3. The United Nations should support, with the assistance of the donor community, all appropriate post-conflict initiatives related to disarmament and demobilization.

4. The United Nations should consider, at the request of the State concerned, dispatching a fact-finding mission to regions and subregions where conflicts come to an end and where serious problems of the proliferation of small arms have to be dealt with urgently.

5. The United Nations should, with the assistance of Member States in a position to do so, promote and support initiatives to make available information on useful and successful practices and information on available resources with regard to stockpile management, collection and safe storage of small arms, and destruction of surplus arms.

6. The United Nations, in cooperation with regional organizations and Member States, where appropriate, should further facilitate appropriate cooperation with civil society, including non-governmental organizations, in activities related to small arms and light weapons, in view of the important role that civil society plays in efforts to raise awareness of and address the problems associated with such weapons.

7. The United Nations, in cooperation with regional organizations and Member States, should consider ways and means to develop training facilities and programmes for authorities which deal with small arms and light weapons.

8. The United Nations should urge relevant organizations, such as the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) and the World Customs Organization, as well as all States and their relevant national agencies, to cooperate closely in the identification of the groups and individuals engaged in illicit trafficking activities and the modes of transfer used by them.

Other international or regional organizations

9. All other international and regional organizations engaged in activities related to development assistance, such as the World Bank and Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and the Development, or any other group of States, should intensify and coordinate their activities with respect to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants in regions of the world where conflicts come to an end and where serious problems of the proliferation of small arms and light weapons have to be dealt with urgently, and should keep the United Nations informed in that regard. Due account should be taken of the specific situation of each region or country in question, and the cooperation of the Secretary-General should be sought, where appropriate.

States

10. States in a position to do so should assist other States, at their request, in the formulation and implementation of all appropriate post-conflict programmes related to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, such as those for the disposal and destruction of weapons.

11. States in a position to do so should assist other States, at their request, in their efforts to collect and safeguard weapons and to destroy surplus weapons and confiscated or collected weapons.